

KILLED BEFORE THEIR WIVES AND CHILDREN.

Blood-Curdling Details of the Massacre of Christians at Birjick, Aleppo Province.

A Score of People Dragged from a Cave and Butchered by Fanatics.

WOMEN SPARED FOR A WORSE FATE.

Live Coals Placed on the Body of an Old Man—Terribly Tortured Because He Refused to Become a Renegade.

London, Feb. 21.—The following dispatch has been received from Constantinople regarding the massacre at Birjick, Province of Aleppo.

"Birjick had about 200 Christian houses, or, say, about 1,000 souls, in the midst of a Muslim population of about 9,000 souls. After the massacre at Curfa on October 27, 1895, the authorities at Birjick told the Armenians that the Moslems were afraid of them, and therefore they (the Armenians) must surrender to the Government any arms that they possessed. This was done, the most rigid search being instituted to assure the authorities that nothing whatever in the way of arms remained in the hands of the Armenians.

The disarmament caused no little anxiety to the Armenians, since the Moslem population was very generally armed, and was constantly adding to its arms. In fact, during the months of November and December the Christians have been kept within their houses, because the danger of appearing upon the streets was very great.

TROOPS TO BUTCHER THEM. Troops were called out by the Government to protect them. Since the soldiers had come to protect the Christians, the Christians were required to furnish animals for them to use to carry their goods. Then they were required to furnish the beds and carpets to make them more comfortable. Finally, they were required to furnish the soldiers with food, and they were reduced to a state bordering on destitution by these increasing demands.

The end came on the 1st of January, 1896, when the news of the massacre of several thousands of Christians at Curfa by the soldiers appointed to guard them, incited the troops at Birjick to imitate this crime.

The assault on the Christian houses commenced at about 9 o'clock in the morning, and continued until midnight. The soldiers were aided by the Moslems of the city in the terrible work. The object at first seemed to be mainly plunder, but after the plunder had been secured the soldiers seemed to make a systematic search for men in order to kill those who were unwilling to accept Mohammedanism.

The cruelty used by force men to become Moslems was terrible. In one case the soldiers found some twenty people, men, women and children, who had taken refuge in a sort of cave. They dragged them out and killed all the men and boys, because they would not become Moslems.

MEDIAEVAL BARBARISM.

After cutting down one old man, who had thus refused, they put live coals upon his body, and as he was writhing in torture they held a Bible before him and asked him mockingly to read them some of the promises in which he had trusted.

Others were thrown into the river while still alive, after having been cruelly wounded. The wounded and children of this party were loaded up like goods upon the backs of porters, and carried off to the houses of Moslems.

Christian girls were eagerly sought after, and much quarrelling occurred over the question of their division among their captors. Every Christian house, except two, claimed to be owned by Turks, was plundered. Ninety-six men are known to have been killed, or about half of the adult Christian men.

The others have become Mussulmans to save their lives, so that there is not a single Christian left in Birjick to-day. The Armenian Church has been made into a mosque, and the Protestant church into a Medrese seminary.

TOO MUCH HOME COMFORT

Its Appearance in a London Workhouse Causes a Matrimonial Epidemic to Break Out Among Other Paupers.

By Julian Ralph.

London, March 1.—The Guardians of Hampstead, London, have recently added cosy little rooms for pauper married couples to their Workhouse, appointing them with brass fenders, neat beds, spring mattresses, railroads, bureaus, washstands, pictures, armchairs, carpets, rugs, hassocks and a few books in each.

An old man and an old woman, whose years sum up to a hundred and thirty spied one of these pretty nooks last week and agreed to marry for the purpose of being able to enjoy the new improvement. They went out for a walk, came back man and wife and demanded one of the new rooms.

The Guardians are dreadfully alarmed at an epidemic of matrimony being thus started.

Under the law, married couples cannot be separated, so nothing can be done to prevent the whole sixty pairs of unmarried paupers proceeding to the altar.

They are allowed to go out for a walk on Sundays, and to go to church on Sundays, and the master of the Workhouse has reported to the Guardians that he long has noticed an extraordinary tendency on the part of even the oldest paupers of opposite sexes to drift together on Thursdays and walk side by side, like persons courting.

WANTED A PERFECT WIFE.

One of Philosophical Mind, Who Did Not Wear Spectacles, Could Swim and Play Backgammon.

By Julian Ralph.

London, March 1.—All London is laughing over the trial of the managers of the "World's Great Marriage Association," which cleared \$25,000 profit in ten months in its alleged efforts to get husbands and wives for its subscribers.

The witnesses thus far have been men of some means, including a tobacconist, a hairdresser and a law student.

The fourth one was a man who declared himself to be the champion backgammon player of England. He subscribed for a wife of good, sound judgment, able to swim, play backgammon, of a philosophical turn of mind and able to see without spectacles.

Sir Frank Lockwood asked him if ever in the whole course of his life he saw a woman with all these qualifications.

The witness admitted that while in correspondence with a certain Alice May he was also writing to fifty-one other ladies. The prosecution charges that the association kept what is called a "Bertha" book, full of names of fictitious ladies, most of the letters to wife-hunters being in one handwriting, and the book was necessary as the business grew so as to keep track of what women each man had been corresponding with.

Notable lawyers are engaged on the case and are making much more fun out of it than would heretofore have been believed possible in an English court.

STAGE ACTION ON A SCREEN.

The Newly Invented Theatograph an Important Adjunct to the Kinetograph.

By Julian Ralph.

London, March 1.—The French cinematograph, recently introduced into London, is a device for throwing pictures made in Edison's kinetograph on a screen so that they can be viewed by large audiences at



PETER LAGERQUIST.

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FIRE THE HOUSE TO COVER THEFT.

An Incendiary Endangers Thirty Lives to Loot the Cloak Room of a Dance Hall.

Has Three Encounters with Inmates and Police in One Night and Escapes.

WAS IT CHRISTIAN HEIM'S REVENGE?

Had Been Sent to Prison by the Owners of the Endangered Property for Thieving and Had Threatened Vengeance.

The police are looking for the firebug who started the flames in a crowded lodging house on First avenue to secure an opportunity to rob the hat room at a dance hall. The blaze threatened the lives and property of thirty persons, while the thief succeeded in carrying away only half a dozen overcoats, and had to drop them to escape.

Gustav Mueller and his wife Frances Mueller, occupy two buildings on the east side corner, where Houston street crosses and connects Allen street and First avenue. The structure, known as No. 2 First avenue, has a drug store on the ground floor and a popular lodging house on the four floors above. The other building, No. 109 East Houston street, has a saloon on the first floor, a good sized dance hall on the second floor, and the Mueller residence, with a lodging house annex, above. The dance hall was booming Saturday night. About thirty girls of the neighborhood, and twice as many young men, came into the

ball, which promised to last until daylight. Everybody was jolly, and the music-men especially hilarious, so that intermissions were short and the fun prolonged. Things were so gay, indeed, that the panic that immediately followed the discovery of the fire across the street was not heard in the dance hall at all.

One of the lodgers at No. 2 First avenue was going to his room at 1 o'clock yesterday morning when he passed a man in the hall whom he took to be Christian Heim, a former roomer who had together thought nothing of this as he supposed Heim was living in the house again, so he went on to his room on the top floor. He had scarcely reached there when he heard screams of "Fire! fire!" uttered on the floors below him.

LODGERS PANIC STRICKEN.

Lodgers rushed out of their rooms in their night clothes and down to the street in great excitement. The hallways were found to be filled with smoke. The fire was in the hallway on the first floor, next to the drug store. Two barrels had been moved and tipped over together against a wooden door, the fire being built beneath them with kindling and rubbish. The place for the blaze was well selected. Just back of the door were three big cans of kerosene belonging to the grocery next door and in the drug store on the other side of the partition were benzine, other inflammable liquids and the usual stock of chemicals.

Fortunately the blaze was discovered in time, for a few pails of water put it out. John Mueller, a son of the proprietor of the place, ran over from the saloon across the street, and hurried to the Police Station to give out the alarm. On his return he went up to the dance hall and told the dancers there was a fire. In a few minutes the hall was almost deserted.

When the excitement had somewhat subsided and the dance music had started up again, four of the young men who had been at the ball and who intended to return, were standing talking together at the Allen street side of the saloon on the sidewalk, just under the fire escape that led up to the hall. The young men were greatly astonished when an overcoat was thrown out of the window above and fell at their feet. Another overcoat fell, and then another, and another, until six of them were lying in a bunch on the sidewalk.

After the overcoats had tumbled, a man got out of the window, climbed down the fire escape, and with great coolness began to gather up the overcoats in his arm.

"That's a thief," said Ed Beresh, of No. 152 Allen street, one of the young men in the group. "What's more, one of those coats is mine."

Beresh grabbed his coat. Other boys grabbed other coats. The thief began to fight, and there was a "muss" all around. "If there's going to be a fight, I'll be in it!" yelled a police officer across the street. The policeman dashed over the way and began hitting right and left with his club. Before explanations could be made the thief had dropped all the coats and escaped.

George Brown, of Sixth street, who was one of the young men, says he thinks the fellow who came down the fire escape was Christian Heim. He knew Heim when the latter worked for the Mueller.

After the fire and the theft in the coat room there was more excitement. The dance closed earlier than expected and the hall was dark at 3:30 in the morning. At that hour Mrs. Mueller went into the hall and thought she saw a man. It was found the window from the fire escape opened into the cloak room had again been opened. The window was closed, after investigation disclosed no sight of a man on the fire escape.

Scarcely ten minutes later the cloak room window was again opened. The thief put his arm through the glass to reach the window fastening. Gustav Mueller ran quickly through the ball room to the window just in time to see a man disappear from the fire escape over the roof. The thief fired two shots from his revolver to alarm the police.

In ten minutes there were a dozen policemen and many other people on the spot. Policemen clambered up on the roof and searched in all directions for the burglar. They did not find the thief, but they did secure half a dozen umbrellas that had been stolen from the cloak room and concealed on the roof. This explained why the fellow had so persistently returned.

SURE IT WAS HIM.

"This was done for revenge," said Mrs. Mueller last night. "I adopted Heim because I thought his adopted mother had turned him out on the world for no reason. After I had to discharge him I found he had served two years at Elmira. Within a few months after his dismissal our place was robbed twice. The first time \$100 was taken from a wardrobe. The next time \$40, a gold watch and some silverware were stolen."

"Then my son caught Heim in the cellar and held him until the police came. In his room the cigar box that had held our silverware was found. My son prosecuted him and he was sent to the penitentiary for three months. He got out last December and immediately declared he would get even if it took him a lifetime."

The detectives and fire marshals tried to find Heim yesterday, but were not able to locate him.

SEEKS A LEGAL SEPARATION.

Charles M. Thwaits Wants an Absolute Divorce from His Wife.

Charles M. Thwaits, son of William Thwaits, proprietor of the Old Homestead

Hotel, at Bronxdale, is suing his wife, Minnie, for absolute divorce. The papers were served February 13, and the case will come up to-day in the County Court at White Plains.

John Burns, son of a prosperous merchant in Bronxdale, Van Ness County, Pa., is mentioned as co-respondent. They were married April 15, 1888, in Fordham.

Mrs. Thwaits was a Miss Minnie Leona Blackburn, of Gouverneur, St. Lawrence County. She is now living in Lexington avenue, White Plains.

BURGLARS CAPTURED.

Policeman Daly Succeeded in Landing Them in the Police Station After a Struggle.

Policeman Daly, of the West Thirtieth Street Station, arrested two young toughs whom he caught in the act of attempting to burglarize the laundry of Charlie Lew, No. 430 Seventh avenue, yesterday afternoon, and as a reward Captain Pickett gave him a night off. Daly was detailed yesterday afternoon to watch the side door of a saloon at the corner of Third-fifth street and Seventh avenue. A half a block away Thomas Cassidy, alias "Lively," an ex-convict, and Thomas Bell, alias "Morze," attempted to force their way into the laundry of Charlie Lew. They forced the lock on the front door, but were unable to get the door open. They then went through the hall and were working at the door when Mrs. McPhillips, who lives on the floor above the laundry, saw them and sent word to Policeman Daly.

The policeman went to the house, and when he entered he found the two men trying to force open the door with a chisel. He seized them both, and while taking them through the hall his prisoners turned on him and knocked him down. Cassidy broke away from him and fled, and Bell, unable to get away, struck the policeman in the face. The policeman and the burglar rolled over each other in the hall until the policeman succeeded in drawing his club. A blow across the head with the club took all the fight out of Bell, and he surrendered.

When Daly reached the sidewalk with his prisoner he saw Cassidy standing on the corner, and sounding an alarm turned his prisoner over to another policeman, and after a short chase captured Cassidy and took him to the police station. Cassidy was recognized as an ex-convict, whose picture is in the Rogues' Gallery is No. 1,857.

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For constipation take Jayne's Painless Sanative Pills.

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